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JULY 14, 1999

n Plan Floundering

use members support special session in October

to shove and prod to get committee members to agree to let him prepare some draft legislation for debate at the panel's final gun-control debate next Wednesday.

"We're just now getting back into focus," Hillyard said at the conclusion of the meeting.

Hillyard, without endorsing any plan, said he will prepare bills reflecting Leavitt's gun proposals. The governor wants to call an October special session of the Legislature to ban legally concealed weapons from schools and prohibit gun sales to people with a court-documented history of mental illness or violent misdemeanor crimes.

Those are the same changes to state law House Minority Leader Dave Jones has proposed since April. The Salt Lake City Democrat also wants to require criminal background checks of all customers at gun shows — a change from current law, which has a loophole for sales made by someone other than a licensed dealer.

Jones has had a draft bill since June. Although he is a member of the Judiciary Committee, requested debate

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See LEAVITT, Page C-3

County Lets LDS Church Expand Its Granite Quarry

BY BRANDON LOOMIS

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Salt Lake County permitted the LDS Church to expand its Little Cottonwood Canyon granite quarry Tuesday, setting up a potential legal challenge from neighbors for the second straight year.

"We have a property owner who has rights," Planning Commissioner Joann Frost said, explaining her part in the unanimous vote to allow the church's contractors to split and haul boulders closer than 1,000 feet from residential lots.

One neighbor threatened a repeat of a lawsuit that stalled work last year before a court ultimately let the church proceed. Tuesday's decision also may be appealed to Salt Lake County commissioners, though they sided with the Planning Commission during a similar appeal last year.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints owns the property from which it intermittently has gathered stone for buildings for more than a century. In obtaining a conditional permit last year to reopen

See LDS CHURCH, Page C-3



Increasing Class Sizes Bad Politics

Repercussions predicted for Jordan School District

BY HEATHER MAY

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

SANDY — A member of the State Board of Education warned the Jordan School District Tuesday that its decision to increase class sizes to cover a budget shortfall this fiscal year will cause it some political heartburn.

The Jordan School Board voted in June to raise class sizes by an average of half a student, even as enrollment

The DHP is establishing markers at locations around the state where troopers have been killed in the line of duty.

— *Uintah Basin Standard*

GRAND

Phil Brueck, acting superintendent of the National Park Service's Southeast Utah Group, has told the Grand County Council that a deal has been worked out with the Utah Department of Transportation to build a new entrance to Arches National Park.

Currently there is only one entrance booth to collect fees and answer visitors' questions, which causes traffic backups. The new entrance will have two collection

The Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum in Blanding Saturday opened a new exhibit, "Petroglyphs and Pictographs of the Rio Grande," which will run through Dec. 31.

The exhibit contains 65 Cibachrome color prints taken by Dudley King. They depict images of the Pueblo Indians between 1300 and 1600.

King is the past president of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico and Albuquerque Archaeological Society.

— *The San Juan Record*

SEVIER

The Pacificorp Foundation has

UTAH

Donald Walker, a professor in the Department of History at Brigham Young University and director of research at the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for LDS History, has received the Mormon History Association's 1998 Best Book Award.

Walker is the author of *Wayward Saints: The Godbeites and Brigham Young*, published by the University of Illinois Press.

The book tells of spiritualist seances, conspiracy and an important trial involving The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

say they have been noisy, drunken people long.

Attorney Bruce 77 residents he re encouraged by the council members and sorority memb

"They are so tired with this problem have no solution, "They owe us a duty problem. The negative impression the court do that."

But Greek Council sent a letter Tuesday Council members more time to resolve the issue on the more students with school.

"To promote change within the must inform the students be directly involved the current situation

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The world-renowned Silent Drill performing Saturday Mountain Raceway

The 10-minute prohibition will be held mission of the approximately 8:30 p.m.

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LDS Church Can Expand Canyon Quarry

■ Continued from C-1

the quarry to mine granite for the church's new downtown Salt Lake City Assembly Building, church officials agreed to comply with a canyon ordinance restricting mining to 1,000 feet from house lots.

Church attorney Mark Mascaro told the Planning Commission it is necessary to gather granite boulders closer to the Wasatch Resort development if the work is to be completed this year. It is more difficult and time-consuming to gather stone from the hillside within the previously permitted area, he said.

The church nearly has doubled its estimated need for raw granite since obtaining the mining permit last year — from 11,400 tons to

roughly 22,000 tons. The mining and granite-finishing contractor, Idaho Travertine Corp., has said more granite than expected has gone to waste because of interior fractures.

The county permit allows the church to blast and remove granite until June 2000, but LDS officials say they want to finish earlier to meet a projected April opening for the building.

Neighbors, canyon hikers and rock climbers were outraged even before the Planning Commission acted.

"I knew [last year] that the project would grow," said Dave Budge, a climber who uses the area. "They're asking for more rock today. Tomorrow, who knows?"

Budge contended neither the Planning Commission nor the church has been honest about where the project would lead, and he attacked commissioners for again ignoring their own development rules. Last year, the county permitted the quarry even though its access roads crossed steeper

grades than are allowed by ordinance.

"You lacked the vision and integrity to apply your own rules," he said. "The rules obviously don't apply to the LDS Church. You've made a mockery of yourselves and this commission."

Cullen Battle, attorney for neighbors Karen and Bruce Cunningham, said the fact that the original site plans showed the quarry extending within 1,000 feet of residential lots shows that it was inevitable the church would ask for a variance, he said.

Karen Cunningham said Tuesday that despite an unsuccessful lawsuit to block the mining she would sue again to try to force the county to follow its canyon development ordinance. She said she would not have objected to the expansion if she believed the church would stop mining this year.

Her threat of a lawsuit came despite Frost's caution that the commission would support an extension of mining beyond June if a legal battle delayed work.

Class Sizes Can't Increase Without Heartburn

■ Continued from C-1

to cover increases in salaries and insurance or to operate and maintain the three new schools opening this fall.

With a half-student increase, Jordan's ninth-grade classes will be the district's largest this coming year with 27.9 students. Kindergarten through third-grade classes will have 22 to 23 stu-

though he declined to name the members. He expects legislators will have the same concerns.

"The Legislature would say, 'Here we're funding 10 years of class-size reduction but suddenly it's not working for that district.'"

Jordan Superintendent Barry Newbold said legislators have contacted him to talk about the budget, but the calls have been to clarify the details, not criticize. And Newbold, president of the Utah School Superintendents Association, doesn't expect other districts to follow Jordan's path.

"Raising class sizes is the last resort. Boards of education and school administrators are not go-

increase, it comes at a bad time. The Utah Legislature has spent millions of dollars over the past decade to reduce class sizes. And the federal government is due to give Utah \$7.7 million this year for class-size reduction. It is unclear if the state effort has paid off in terms of improving learning and reducing discipline problems, but class sizes have dropped by an average of two students.

Linnea Barney, who represents parts of Utah County for the State Board of Education, said she is disappointed.

"I really hate to see [Jordan] go this direction. It seems like that's backwards," she said. "It's hard to be critical because I know how tight the budget is for all the dis-

Summer need shot in the air the fun going goes for kids.